

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 9.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
26 April 1981

STAT

People

By PHIL ROURA and TOM POSTER

STAT

Ford and his old Cabinet to meet, no buts about it

Former President Gerald Ford has called an extraordinary session of his former aides and cabinet members for Tuesday in Grand Rapids, Mich., to consider a weighty problem: more than 15 million sheets of paper about most of the public life of the former congressman and President that are housed in the Ford Memorial Library. It opens tomorrow.

For two meetings, each to last about an hour, the minutes will record those in attendance as Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, CIA Director William Colby, Secretary of the Treasury William Simon, Secretary of Transportation William Coleman, Press Secretary Ron Nessen, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, presidential counsel Anne Armstrong, Secretary of Commerce Elliot Richardson and Attorney General Ed Levi, to name a few.

For Ford, it's history. No other former President has ever called his cabinet back into session after leaving the White House.

Absent will be James Schlesinger, who was bounced as defense secretary after a feud with Kissinger, and Earl Butz, the former agriculture secretary who suffered from foot-in-mouth disease. They weren't invited.

The Ford Library, said Ford spokesman Bob Barrett, cost \$15 million and was paid for by 14,000 contributors and the University of Michigan. The library is a two-story brick building with red oak walls inside and a high-security vault for special papers and a private office for Ford, should he ever want to do research or writing there.

About 150 former White House aides have been working to put the library in order, a huge job because Ford was the first chief executive to donate his papers while still in office. The collection includes 7,000 hours of video and audio tapes.

A presidential museum also is being built at Ann Arbor by the university.